

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-04

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 PRS-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY PA/PG:DBROWN:MS

APPROVED BY PA/PG-DBROWN

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O 201835Z DEC 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 247942

TOSEC 340

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HEREWITH FULL TEXT MARILYN BERGER COLUMN WASHINGTON POST -
DECEMBER 20, 1973

HENRY KISSINGER'S INTENSIVE COURTSHIP OF CONGRESS IS
PAYING OFF IN DECLARATIONS OF ADMIRATION FOR THE NEW SEC-
RETARY OF STATE.

"IMPRESSIVE," "TREMENDOUSLY EFFECTIVE," "EXTREMELY
ARTICULATE," "KNOWLEDGEABLE," "UP TO HIS USUAL EXCELLENCE"
ARE THE ENCOMIUMS OFFERED AS KISSINGER TALKS HIS WAY FROM
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINALLY
TO THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

AND IT IS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMITTEE WHICH
WAS FOR SO LONG IN OPPOSITION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OVER
ITS MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY HEADACHE, VIETNAM, THAT KISSINGER
APPEARS TO HAVE SCORED HIS BIGGEST HIT.

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SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN J. W.

FULBRIGHT (D-ARK.) USED TO PLAY GOLF WITH KISSINGER'S PREDECESSOR, WILLIAM P. ROGERS. BUT WITH KISSINGER, FULBRIGHT HAS LONG TALKS OVER BREAKFAST OR LUNCH "FREQUENTLY AND REGULARLY," ACCORDING TO A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. THEY SEEM TO HAVE VERY PUBLIC AND VERY LENGTHY TETE-A-TETES AT EVERY COCKTAIL PARTY TO WHICH THEY ARE BOTH INVITED. THEIR RELATIONSHIP, IN FACT HAS BECOME, AS ONE OBSERVER PUT IT, "THE BIGGEST LOVE AFFAIR IN TOWN."

TO SOME IT IS A HEALTHY EXPRESSION OF A PROPER EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONSHIP. TO OTHERS IT IS A CAUSE OF SINISTER FOREBODINGS ABOUT WHETHER KISSINGER WILL DO UNTO ISRAEL WHAT FULBRIGHT HAS BEEN ADVOCATING ALL ALONG. FULBRIGHT HAS CRITICIZED U.S. POLICY FOR ITS STRONG PRO-ISRAELI TILT AND HAS URGED AMERICAN PRESSURE TO ASSURE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. SOME PEOPLE, IN FACT, ARE WONDERING WHO IS COURTING WHOM.

BUT KISSINGER HAD DONE MORE THAN EMBRACE FULBRIGHT. HE HAS BESTOWED ON THOSE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHAT IN WASHINGTON CAN BE THE MOST EXHILARATING OF GIFTS: HE HAS TAKEN THEM INTO HIS CONFIDENCE.

EACH TIME HE HAS APPEARED ON CAPITOL HILL HE HAS REQUESTED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION. FOR BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, SO THE IMPRESSION GOES, HE CAN GIVE THE REAL INSIDE DOPE.

ASKED WHAT NEWS KISSINGER HAD IMPARTED, ONE SENATOR AFTER ANOTHER DECLINED TO RESPOND. "I CAN'T GO INTO THAT," SAID SEN. FRANK CHURCH (D-IDAHO) WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE NATO AND COMMON MARKET DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLE KISSINGER HAD SUGGESTED. "I WON'T BETRAY A CONFIDENCE." AT ANOTHER POINT, ASKED ABOUT DETENTE, CHURCH REPEATED: "IF I GO ANY FURTHER I'LL BE BREAKING A CONFIDENCE."

BUT WHILE MOST OF THE SENATORS PRESENT WERE IMPRESSED,
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MOST ADMITTED ON CLOSE QUESTIONING THAT HIS PRIVATE CONFIDENCES SOUNDED VERY MUCH LIKE HIS PUBLIC DECLARATIONS.

AN OUTSIDER WHO WAS PERMITTED TO JOIN ONE OF KISSINGER'S SEANCES NOTED THAT HE WAS "TREMENDOUSLY EFFECTIVE BY COMPARISON WITH THE WAY THE COMMITTEE HAD BEEN TREATED IN THE PAST." CHURCH RECALLED THAT ONE OF THE MEMBERS COMMISERATED WITH THOSE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHO

FELT LEFT OUT WHEN THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED. "YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE ABOUT THAT," CHURCH QUOTED HIS COLLEAGUE AS SAYING. "UNTIL RECENTLY THAT'S PRECISELY HOW THIS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN TREATED."

ON THE HOUSE SIDE IT'S THE SAME REP. JONATHAN BINGHAM (D-N.Y.) SAID OF KISSINGER'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO TALK ABOUT THE MIDEAST: "HE MAKES A GOOD IMPRESSION HE TREATS PEOPLE LIKE ADULTS. HE DOESN'T TALK DOWN TO THEM AND HE DOESN'T KOW-TOW."

HAD BINGHAM LEARNED ANYTHING THAT HADN'T ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC? "THERE MAY BE NUANCES THAT MAY BE DIFFERENT," SAID BINGHAM, "BUT HE DOESN'T SAY MUCH THAT HE HADN'T SAID BEFORE, PUBLICLY." YET BINGHAM WOULD GIVE NONE OF THE "SECRETS" AWAY. "HE'S GOING TO LEVEL WITH US," HE SAID. "WE WANT TO GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF BEING DISCREET IN RETURN."

REP. BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL (D-N.Y.) LEARNED LITTLE THAT WAS NEW BUT HE HAD A GOOD TIME WHEN KISSINGER APPEARED BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LAST WEEK. "I SHOULDN'T SAY HE DAZZLES THEM OR THAT BY BEING A SUPERSTAR THEY (THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS) LIKE BEING IN HIS COMPANY. I CAN ONLY SAY I ENJOY HEARING KNOWLEDGABLE PEOPLE TALK KNOWLEDGEABLY. I HAVEN'T BEEN IN THIS SITUATION BEFORE," SAID ROSENTHAL, WHO NOTED HE HAD BEEN ON THE COMMITTEE FOR 10 YEARS.

SO FAR THE COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN MAINLY ONE WAY, FROM KISSINGER TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HE MEETS. BUT, SAID CHURCH: "I THINK HE'S LISTENING AND OBTAINING FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ADVICE, SOME OF WHICH, PERHAPS MUCH OF WHICH HE PUTS TO USE ...I REALLY THINK THAT KISSINGER IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A WORKING RAPPORT WITH THE COMMITTEE, NOT ONLY TO SOLICIT THE COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT BUT ALSO TO OPEN THE DOORS TO A TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION...THAT'S WHY THE WHOLE ATTITUDE IN THE COMMITTEE HAS CHANGED SO FAVORABLY IN SO SHORT A PERIOD OF TIME."

BUT IT IS ALSO WHY SOME OF THE EXPERTS ARE ASKING WHETHER THIS NEW-FOUND WARMTH WILL BRING MORE CONSENT THAN ADVICE INTO THE FOREIGN POLICY PROCESS. END TEXT. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE247942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBROWN:MS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731213/aaaaaiyb.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Dec-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL HERewith FULL TEXT MARILYN BERGER COLUMN WASHINGTON POST -
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005